

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

Alexandria Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Case No. 1:10cr200 (LMB)
	:	
LEE BENTLEY FARKAS,	:	
	:	
Defendant.	:	

**NOTICE OF FILING LETTERS FOR SENTENCING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the defendant, LEE BENTLEY FARKAS, by and through his counsel, is filing the following redacted character letters (identified for filing purposes by number as “1-1” through “1-48”):

1. Erla Carter-Shaw;
2. John Cathro;
3. Robert A. Cromartie;
4. Shawn Cross;
5. Janet Duncan;
6. Joe W. Ellis;
7. Alonzo Esgaib;
8. R. William Futch;
9. David Galvan;
10. Rabbi Yossi Hecht;
11. Jim Herzberger;
12. Terri A. Huber;

13. Robert Huff;
14. Jose Interiano;<sup>1</sup>
15. Mary Ann Johnson;
16. Paulette Johnston;
17. Laurie P. Jones;
18. Debbie Kemp;
19. Marlene King;
20. Paula King;
21. Susan E. King;
22. Richard B. Klein;
23. Frances M. Lamz;
24. Joan and Norman Lapping;
25. Carlos D. Lopez;
26. Judy Lovelace;
27. Carolina Molinos;
28. Manuel M. Molinos;
29. Nedra Morose;
30. Steven Morose;
31. Carole Morrissey;
32. Deborah Nosewicz;
33. Tim Parker;

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Interiano's letter was translated "in-house" and the original version, in Spanish, is available for review upon request.

34. Wayne Pollack;
35. Margaret A. Potter-Levane;
36. Justin Potts;
37. John M. Rennie;
38. Jerome C. Sarason;
39. Sigrid Schwartz
40. Jo-Ann Semler;
41. Mark Spaulding;
42. Kendel Standlee;
43. David Stark;
44. Samantha Stathas;
45. Jessica Vega;
46. Kimberly Wages-Bead;
47. Sarah Wood;
48. Jeanette Zufelt.

Addresses and telephone numbers have been redacted, and counsel for the defendant will maintain the original, unredacted, letters for the court's review if requested. Because the letters will be filed electronically, after being scanned, it will be necessary for them to be filed separately or in small groups, but each letter or group of letters will be filed as exhibits to this Notice.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE BENTLEY FARKAS



/s/

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May 20, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema

United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Efficiency, honesty, enthusiasm, friendliness – these are the qualities that first occur to me in describing Mr. Farkas. I find myself uniquely honored to have observed Mr. Farkas in a number of situations which allowed me to witness first hand his dedication to his employees and the community.

Mr. Farkas showed compassion and understanding to his employees. He set up a foundation which the employees could ask for assistance when they had issues. He paid employee's electric bills so it would not be turned off; paid a mortgage payment until they got on their feet so they would not lose their home; gave money to buy groceries and diapers ; bought employees children bikes for Christmas and much more. Mr. Farkas established a college reimbursement program for his employees so they could continue their education which provided a sense of honor knowing you are doing something to better yourself.

Mr. Farkas was a large contributor to the community of Ocala. At Christmas time, he assisted with an ice skating rink downtown to enjoy; generous supporter of Ocala's social service, cultural and charitable activities, such as The Salvation Army; Habitat for Humanity; American Cancer Society; Marion Film Foundation; Sheltering Arms Foundation, which provides transitional housing to neglected and abused children; Central Florida Community College and the Marion County Humane Society.

In my opinion, Mr. Farkas was an outstanding employer who on a daily basis went "above and beyond" his title. In times like these, people forget the generosity that was given.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Carole Morrissey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carole Morrissey

May 18, 2011

The Honorable States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

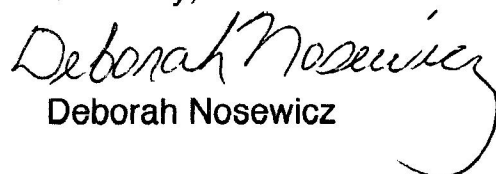
Dear Judge Brinkema,

For more than twenty years, I have had a connection to the Ocala community through close friends in the equine industry. Like many residents of the Florida community I was familiar with Lee Farkas through his reputation as a major Ocala employer. While it has been within the past couple of years that I personally have come to know Lee I am struck by the disparity between his public and private persona. My interaction and developing friendship with Lee has revealed a very different man than what has been presented since his arraignment and throughout his trial.

While the media has portrayed him as materialistic and arrogant it is a contradiction to the quiet, humble, and serving man I have observed. His business accomplishments, which could have revealed pride, were secondary to his generosity toward family, friends, employees, and community. He has possessed unwavering dedication to people, animals, and causes in need of his assistance throughout his life immaterial to what he had.

As a friend who has experienced Lee's recent awareness and commitment to dealing with his personal life issues I believe he has an opportunity to be defined, not by this failure, but for the depth of his true character. I know that Lee is motivated to continue his education, teach others, and demonstrate compassionate, honorable behavior. Lee is incredibly self-disciplined and he will work very hard to create a purposeful life. I believe Lee will make the most of his opportunity to contribute and create a meaningful legacy. Your consideration and wisdom are respected in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Deborah Nosewicz

May 16, 2011

Bill Cummings  
111 S. Fairfax Street  
Alexandria VA 22314

Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
US District Judge  
US Court House  
Alexandria VA 22314

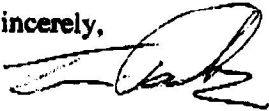
RE: Lee Farkas – Taylor Bean & Whitaker

Dear Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema,

I have known Lee Farkas since 1991. I know that Lee has done many things to help people in need and helped the community financially, in Ocala, Marion County.

Lee was generis with organizations like Salvation Army, Good Will and many other local charities. During family crises Lee would make the Company jet available to help individuals with their medical needs. Lee has financially helped to fix up the Old Ocala Movie Theatre and the City is now using it. Also one special Christmas he bought 200 new bicycles for the local under privileged children. The children who would have received very little for Christmas came into the Company and picked out a new bike. These Children were smiling with joy that year, Lee made Christmas for those Children that year unforgettable.

Sincerely,



Tim Parker





The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Judge Brinkema,

My name is Wayne Pollack and I am writing you with regard to Lee Farkas. Lee is my first cousin and although I am a relative I would like to vouch for Lee's character. Throughout my life I am aware of many instances where family and friends have turned to Lee for help or advice. Lee is always there, willing and able to help. Lee is a problem solver and a voice of reason.

As a businessman Lee is a very dedicated and hard worker. Lee became an integral part of every community he was involved in. Lee developed and improved real estate as well as people everywhere he had a presence. Lee is a very generous and philanthropic individual. He gave to many people and organizations.

I worked for Lee as a teenager in our family flower shop, he helped instill the work ethic I have today.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Pollack". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wayne Pollack  
President  
Peoples Flowers

Two lines of text have been completely redacted with thick black horizontal bars.



May 09, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United State Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Honorable Brinkema:

This letter is on behalf of Lee B. Farkas; I have known Lee for 25 years and worked at Taylor, Bean & Whitaker for 13 of those years and would still be there if possible.

Lee Farkas tried to help everyone he possibly could, there were times when I would say to him "There is a special place in heaven for you". The part about Lee was that he did not want any thanks or recognition for what he had done.

One of the biggest ways to help others was to give them a job. His theory was "don't give the man money, buy him a fishing pole and teach him how to fish." At Taylor, Bean & Whitaker no one had to look at certain way, or be of a certain race. You were graded strictly on your own merits. There was no partiality shown between a pretty woman and one that might weigh 200 pounds. We were one big happy family, with a monthly birthday cake. When it was time for Lee's birthday the employees always wanted to give him something and he would say just a card will do. If we insisted he would say give to the Humane Society or some other charitable organization.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Potter-Levane

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Levane", written in a cursive style.

April 27th, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema

United States District Judge

United States Courthouse

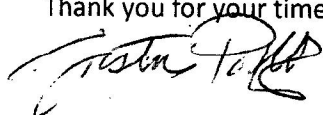
401 Courthouse Square

Alexandria, VA 22314

Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema,

I would like to take the time to write this letter on behalf of Lee B Farkas. Mr. Farkas employed me, as well as a few of my family members. We were so very fortunate to work for a company like Taylor Bean & Whitaker. I feel like Mr. Farkas treated his employees like gold. Not only was he a pleasure to work for; he also reached out to the community and made many improvements in our town. Ocala has changed because of him and all of the donations and fundraisers that he took part in. Mr. Farkas was very active in the community, and he encouraged all to get involved as well. Life in Ocala has been better because of Lee B Farkas.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Potts", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Justin Potts

John M. Rennie  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

May 12, 2011

To: The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema

As a past employee of TB&W, I was laid off after the company's bankruptcy. However hard this was for me, I still want to share with you my personal opinion and observations of the character Mr. Lee Farkas.

Lee always conducted himself to me as a complete gentleman. People were a prime concern of his and I deeply feel as if he cared about his fellow man, work environment, and community. I observed on many occasions when he displayed his incredible charitable nature, by giving to others less fortunate without condition. I had the opportunity to have lengthy conversations with him on life, philosophy and hopes for the future. These conversations were to do with looking after your neighbor and helping the environment as a whole. A recycling campaign was initiated within our department with his direct approval and participation.

His love for animals was evident with his generous donations to animal shelters and animal rights activists. He also gave to various organizations within the city of Ocala. I do remember he excused himself and left a very important business dinner, because the lobsters were being prepared in a very cruel way. On other occasion I witnessed his caring nature in personally helping the most downtrodden of our society. It is this personal conviction that I admire in Mr. Farkas.

Lee genuinely cares about people and issues that will affect us all in the future. I have never seen him physically engage anyone nor have I ever witnessed a malicious or vindictive side to him. In my observations Lee always treated people the way he wanted to be treated.

I personally beseech you, your Honor, to take into account the core of this letter and I trust you will show the appropriate wisdom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John M. Rennie', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John M. Rennie

Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
401 Courthouse Square  
Alexandria, VA 22314

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Judge Brinkema

I can best describe the lowest point in my life as sitting at the bottom of a long dark well, the glint of light above was too far away for hope. Escaping from a physically and emotionally abusive relationship I found myself with no income, savings or transportation. Denial and shame held me back from reaching out for help, yet Lee Farkas could see into the deep well and his hand alone reaching down with compassion and understanding pulled me out. Lee offered me a job with TB&W that changed my life.

Most of my greatest moments of joy and bliss have been with or because of Lee Farkas. Through my 20 year friendship with Lee I have experienced tremendous generosity, love and guidance that are life changing. His charity and support of the community is inspiring. Simply, life is better because of Lee Farkas.



Jerome C Sarason



The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
Alexandria, Va. 22314

May 27, 2011

My name is Sigrid Schwartz and I am employed with one of Mr. Farkas' companies since October 2003. My experience with Mr. Farkas: Total support to put my name out to the community. Never before, in my 30 plus years carrier, anybody did so much for me. He did not need to do that.



When my husband was diagnosed with throat cancer he immediately raised money and matched the amount with a personal Check. My husband and I were stunned. We never asked or expected anything. He did not need to do that. My husband died just before Thanks Giving. Lee invited me, my daughter and 2 of our friends to his house and cooked for us. It was the most memorable Thanks Giving I've ever experienced. The following Christmas, knowing I was by myself, he invited me again to spend time with him and his family. He did not need to that. I could go on and on. Lee has the biggest, kindest heart. Always ready to help and support people. He is for sure different than most people I've ever met. I've met a lot of people over the years – in different countries. Even his sense of humor is unique. He made me laugh so hard, I had to catch my breath.

All I can say is, Lee deserves my respect and adoration and I will always be grateful for his support and kindness and respect he had for me.

Respectfully,



Sigrid Schwartz

address:   


May 26, 2011

The Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema  
United States District Judge  
United States Courthouse  
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: The United States vs. Lee Bentley Farkas

Your Honor:

I am writing on behalf of my friend Lee Bentley Farkas. I have known Lee for over fifteen years and during that time have found him to be a kind, generous and considerate man.

Lee has never refused to help someone in need. The many organizations in Ocala, Florida that needed his help, Lee was always there to help the Salvation Army in any way possible. He helped to rebuild a depressed area of Ocala so under privileged people could have a home to live in. He donated numerous bicycles for under privileged children during the holidays. Put up an ice skating rink during the holidays so under privileged families and those who could afford to pay had a fun and safe place to go.

To me, always a good, caring and loyal friend who made an impact on my life by his constant generosity and kindness.

Jo-Ann Semler

